

Claims

1. A harvester having a frame and including crop removing structure supported by the frame for removing crop from plants, a receptacle supported on the frame and having a loading condition for receiving the crop and an unloading condition for unloading the crop, an air duct system including a first duct extending upwardly from the crop removing structure and receiving the removed crop, a crop accumulator supported by the frame adjacent the receptacle and having an accumulator inlet and an accumulator outlet, a source of propelling air on the harvester for moving the removed crop upwardly through the first duct towards the accumulator inlet, the air duct system including a second duct located adjacent the accumulator outlet and connected to the source of propelling air, the accumulator receiving the crop while the receptacle is in the unloading condition so that the harvester can continue to remove crop while the receptacle is unloaded, wherein the air duct system moves crop from the accumulator to the receptacle when the receptacle is in the loading condition.

2. The harvester as set forth in claim 1 including diverter structure located adjacent the accumulator inlet, the diverter structure facilitating movement of the removed crop from the first duct directly into the receptacle when the receptacle is in the loading condition and directing the removed crop downwardly into the accumulator when the receptacle is in the unloading condition.

3. The harvester as set forth in claim 1 including metering structure located adjacent the accumulator outlet for metering cotton from the accumulator to the air duct system when the receptacle is in the loading condition.

4. The harvester as set forth in claim 1 wherein the receptacle has an inlet area for receiving material directed along a path from the first and second ducts, wherein the inlet area moves relative to the path when the receptacle is placed in the unloading condition, and structure preventing flow of material from the air duct system along the path when the receptacle is placed in the unloading condition.

5. The harvester as set forth in claim 4 wherein the structure preventing flow of material includes a diverter directing cotton into the accumulator inlet and accumulator floor structure closing the accumulator outlet to egress of the crop when

the receptacle is in the unloading condition.

6. A method of moving harvested cotton relative to a cotton harvester basket having a loading position and an unloading position, the method comprising:

supporting an accumulator on the cotton harvester adjacent the basket;

directing the harvested cotton into the cotton harvester basket when the basket is in the loading position;

limiting flow of harvested cotton towards the basket when the basket is moved towards the unloading position by directing cotton into the accumulator; and

directing the cotton in the accumulator from the outlet and into the basket when the basket is in the loading position.

7. The method as set forth in claim 6 including the step of continuing to harvest cotton from cotton plants when the basket is in the unloading position.

8. The method as set forth in claim 6 wherein the step of directing the harvested cotton into the cotton harvester basket when the basket is in the loading position includes moving the cotton over the accumulator directly into the basket.

9. The method as set forth in claim 8 wherein the step of limiting flow of harvested cotton towards the basket when the basket is moved towards the unloading position includes intercepting the flow of harvested cotton and diverting cotton downwardly into the accumulator.

10. The method as set forth in claim 9 wherein the step of intercepting includes moving grate structure from a first position which allows cotton to flow directly into the basket to a second position into the flow of cotton.

11. The method as set forth in claim 6 wherein the step of supporting an accumulator includes providing an accumulator inlet directly below the outlet end of an air conveying duct opening towards the basket.

12. The method as set forth in claim 6 further comprising the steps of supporting an accumulator conveying duct adjacent the outlet and selectively directing harvested cotton from the outlet towards the basket.

13. The method as set forth in claim 6 wherein the step of directing the cotton in the accumulator from the outlet and into the basket includes selectively metering the cotton into an air stream of an air duct extending from the accumulator towards

the basket.

14. The method as set forth in claim 13 wherein the step of directing the harvested cotton into the cotton harvester basket includes blowing cotton from a first harvester duct over the accumulator, and the step directing the cotton in the accumulator from the outlet and into the basket includes blowing cotton from a second harvester duct extending between the outlet towards the basket.

15. The method as set forth in claim 14 including metering the cotton from the accumulator while the harvester is harvesting cotton.

16. The method as set forth in claim 6 wherein the step of directing the cotton in the accumulator from the outlet and into the basket when the basket is in the loading position includes directing the cotton from the accumulator into the basket while the harvester harvests cotton from cotton plants.

17. A harvester having a receptacle movable between a harvest position for receiving crop and a dump position for unloading the crop, an accumulator with an inlet, a duct system with a first duct extending upwardly towards the inlet for directing crop to the inlet, a second duct opening into the accumulator and directing crop from the accumulator to the receptacle, the first duct directing substantially all the crop into the accumulator when the receptacle is moved into the dump position so that the harvester can continue to operate while the receptacle is unloaded, and metering structure located between the second duct and the accumulator for metering crop from the accumulator to the receptacle when in the harvest position.

18. The harvester as set forth in claim 17 including gate structure located between the accumulator and the second duct, the gate structure preventing movement of crop from the accumulator to the receptacle when the receptacle is in the dump position.

19. The harvester as set forth in claim 17 including diverter structure located adjacent the inlet, the diverter structure facilitating movement of the removed crop from the first duct directly into the receptacle when the receptacle is in the harvest position and directing substantially all the removed crop downwardly into the accumulator when the receptacle is moved towards the dump position.

20. The harvester as set forth in claim 17 wherein the receptacle comprises a

cotton basket, the first duct includes a rearwardly directed outlet opening towards a basket inlet located above the accumulator inlet, and the first and second ducts comprise upright air conveying ducts connected to a source of air on the harvester.